



2008 Clean Water Indiana: Conservation Consulting Initiative Program Guidance

Executive Summary: Administered by the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB), the Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grants Program is funded through the Clean Water Indiana Initiative created in 1999 and funded in 2005 by a unanimous vote of the Indiana General Assembly. The purpose of the CWI Grants Program is to provide financial assistance to implement conservation practices to reduce non-point sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training and cost-share programs. This notice identifies the objectives for the 2008 Conservation Consulting Incentive (CCI), the eligibility criteria for participation and instructions on how to apply.

Application Deadline Date and Address: Applications can be found at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2362.htm> and must be e-mailed to Amy Eizinger, Grants Coordinator, at aeizinger@isda.in.gov. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Eastern on Friday, February 22, 2008. Only e-mailed applications will be accepted and late applications will not be considered.

Eligible Applicants: Applications will be accepted from private and public consultants that provide landowner and farmer services on eligible land throughout the Wabash Tributary (refer to attached maps for eligibility areas).

Overview: The purpose of the CCI is to enlist private and public technical assistance to promote the use of nutrient and sediment reduction practices within the Wabash Tributary. This program offers applicants the opportunity to promote and expand conservation practices for new or existing customers. Additionally, farmers will receive incentives for implementing specific practices. By focusing on a select group of conservation practices, the SSCB will assist consultants in marketing these practices, and building awareness and understanding for the program throughout the state.

Funding Opportunity Description: Participating consultants and technicians must promote the implementation of specific nutrient and sediment management practices to be applied within the targeted watersheds. This will be achieved by

- Discussing targeted practices with farmers
- Assisting farmers with specific implementation
- Reporting results and specific locations of the practice implementation.

Participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will distribute the incentives to farmers and consultants. The land must not be funded through similar opportunities such as Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Conservation Reserve Program and does not need to be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs except for the filter or buffer incentive. While there are many practices that will improve nutrient and sediment retention, the SSCB will be focused on the following list:

- Nutrient management: grid soil sampling and variable rate application
- Residue management: cover crops, innovative tillage, equipment modifications
- Pre-side dress nitrate testing

- Filter/buffer consultation for CRP and CREP

Project Dates: All CCI participants may start on March 1, 2008, and may earn incentive payments through January 1, 2009, or until notified that funds have been exhausted. Participating SWCD and ISDA staff will team with selected CCI consultants for administrative and program support.

Budget: The CWI funding allocated to the CCI will be distributed throughout the participating SWCDs and then allocated on a periodic basis to the participating consultants as farmers subscribe to the practices.

Practice	Unit	Landowner Incentive	Consultant Incentive	Total	Program Acres	Total Cost	Acreage Cap	Landowner Incentive	Consultant Incentive
Residue Mgmt/Cover Crop	Acre	\$0.50	\$1	\$1.50	50,000	\$75,000	500	\$250	\$500
Nutrient Mgmt	Acre	\$0.50	\$1	\$1.50	50,000	\$75,000	500	\$250	\$500
Pre-Side Dress Nitrate Testing	Acre	\$0.50	\$1	\$1.50	20,000	\$30,000	500	\$250	\$500
Filter/Buffer Consultation	Contact		\$25	\$25	800	\$20,000			
Totals					120,800	\$200,000			

Note: Residue management includes new tillage technology incentives, no-till/strip-till equipment alterations, and cover crop management. Nutrient Management includes grid soil sampling coupled with variable rate application and manure nutrient testing coupled with targeted application. A total cap of 500 acres or \$250 per farmer will be enforced. The contact list generated by the filter/buffer consultation will be shared with ISDA staff for follow-up and contracting with USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) through the Conservation Reserve Program or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. All payments are contingent upon completion of the practice.

Matching Funds: The CCI applicants are not required to provide an in-kind match.

Proposal Content and Format: Applications can be downloaded from <http://www.in.gov/isda/2362.htm>. Participants must be certified crop consultants or experienced conservation planners.

Acknowledgement of Submission: Applications received by the due date will be acknowledged with an e-mail receipt. If an applicant has not received an acknowledgement e-mail regarding their received application they must contact Amy Eizinger at 317-234-5263. Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for participation.

Proposal Review and Selection Process: Once an application is received a confirmation notice will be sent along with further guidance. Each application will be screened for required content and compliance with the provisions of this notice.

Reporting Requirements: The SSCB will provide a spreadsheet to track activity and adoption of practices. Participants will be required to use the spreadsheet to request incentive payments through the participating SWCD. The SSCB will provide the template for the spreadsheet to be submitted for payment as well as a brief final report to summarize results and evaluations of the program.